

December, 2015

Issue No. 17

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Welcome These

President's NEWS

It has been an exciting year for APA. While we may not have accomplished all I would have liked, we have moved forward on the APA ADA Specialist Designation. See [more information online](#) when you register for the upcoming annual meeting in January.

I would like to extend my thanks to Shirley Knox and her able assistant Nina Paquette for all their valuable assistance this year. We would not have the success we have had without their help.

A request for nominations for vacant board positions was sent to you, via our website. Although the nominations will be closed by the time of this newsletter, I encourage you to consider nominating yourself next year. Serving on the board is one of the best ways to truly understand our organization and what we are all about. If you aren't ready to be a board member yet, please join a committee in 2016 and get some APA leadership experience. Any involvement will be a rewarding adventure and make APA a better association.

You will next hear from me at the annual meeting in Round Rock, TX in January. I look forward to seeing each of you at the meeting and I wish all you a Happy Holiday and the best New Year ever!!

Carroll Lee Pruitt, FAIA, NCARB, APA
2015 APA President



New APA Members!

Click on the member's name to view his or her profile in our Member Directory.

Edith Manriquez

El Paso, TX

Randall M. Syptak

Spring, TX

Have Technical Questions?

It is easy to ask via the APA member-only [Forum!](#)

*Just log in and access your member profile.

*Under the Forums heading select Forum Memberships.

*Choose the forums and threads that interest you.

*You may opt-in for any or all discussions.

Sign up for [Job Opportunities](#) and [Member News!](#)

*Even if you have previously joined the Forum, and "opted in for all discussions", you must go back to your preferences and opt in for any new discussions.

Don't forget that we also have [FAQs](#) for members only!

See our most recent FAQs:

- SHOWER SPRAY UNIT
- REAR GRAB BAR LOCATION
- WATER CLOSET FLUSH CONTROLS
- AUTOMATIC DOOR OPENERS
- PLUMBING FIXTURE vs ACCESSORY
- TOILET

New Look for APA Membership Directory!

Want another opportunity to grow your business? Then update your Profile!

In addition to a new look for your APA website, the Membership Directory features a whole new search tool! This is an exciting new Member Benefit for you.

This tool allows you, and anyone wishing to Hire an Accessibility Professional, to search many new fields related to skill sets. **BUT - in order for you to provide an accurate picture of your services, you must go to your Member Profile and update your descriptors. Additionally, go to the "Interest tab" and check all the items that apply to your services.**

SPECIAL NOTE: Interested parties looking to hire a Specialist, will NOT be able to find you unless you have updated all your "interests".

We encourage you to then do a few sample searches under the Membership Directory tab and see if your Profile comes up as you would expect it to.

Process to update your Profile:

- * Login
- * Click on your name in the top right corner
- * Click on Profile
- * Click on Interest Tab
- * Check all items that apply to your services
- * Hit the save button

Tom Ellis, Chair Membership and Marketing Committees

Register for the 2016 Annual Conference!

The Annual Conference training programs provided by the APA are the most up to date and trustworthy source for Barrier-Free continuing education for architects, accessibility professionals and facility managers. Each program is presented by an APA member with the professional experience to bring clarity to confusing and changing standards. If you are seeking education that goes beyond the basics, the APA Annual Conference Training is your best option.

If you are seeking networking opportunities in addition to

- COMPARTMENT vs.
- TOILET ROOM
- PROTRUDING OBJECTS

Walter Qualls, Chair Technical Standards

Do You Want to Hire a Specialist?

Looking for a specialist to help with planning your building designs and/or inspections? If so, we have Registered Accessibility Specialists (RAS) on our website. [Check Hire A Specialist for a complete directory](#) by name or location.

APA Committees Need You

It is never too late to help an APA committee - either as a member or doing a special one time task. Members may see Committee minutes [here](#). Contact anyone below to discuss:

Communications

- [Mark Morley](#)

Education & Events

- [Jeromy Murphy](#)

Jim Boyce Scholarship

- [Jimmy Bell](#)

Legislative & Legal

- [Robert Ronson](#)

Membership & Marketing

- [Tom Ellis](#)

Technical Standards

- [Walter Qualls](#)

Your Scholarship Program - A

education, register now for the [2016 APA Conference in Round Rock, TX, January 20-22, 2016](#). Hear the latest from local and national educators and professionals.

[Jeromy Murphy](#), Education & Events Chair

NEW! APA "ADA Specialist" Program

The Accessibility Professionals Association Board of Directors is proud to announce the development of an "APA Specialist" designation program which will be awarded to individuals who attend specific APA training and pass a written test. The designation will be limited to members of APA who will be promoted on the APA website, receive a certificate and the right to market this specialized expertise.

The first opportunity to receive this designation will be offered at the APA Annual Conference, January 20-22 in Round Rock, TX. Individuals participating in this track, and who attend the 2016 Annual Conference, may also receive AIA, ICC and the required 8 hour of TDLR Continuing Education Credits.

The following is the criteria for the first designation, APA/ADA Specialist, and a link to the APA 2016 Annual Meeting to register. Below are links to future designation programs as well.

APA/ADA Specialist criteria:

1. Hold a license/certification as RAS, ICBO, CASP, ICC or equal (inquire if you have an alternate)
2. Be a member of APA
3. Take the prescribed 8 hours of study.
4. Pass a written exam with a minimum 75 percent score and pay a \$149 Fee (Paid with Conference Registration)

Course of Study Required - Eight Hours Total Instruction in four categories:

1. ADA History/Overview/ Title I
2. ADA Title II
3. ADA Title III
4. ADA Title IV, V, Misc. Provisions, Ongoing Changes

For further detail, see the following links:

[Specialist Program Outline](#)

[2016 APA Annual Conference January 20-22 and APA-ADA Specialist Track Option.](#)

We look forward to our members receiving this advance level of

chance to give back

Jim Boyce Memorial Scholarship was established by the Accessibility Professionals Association (APA), to honor and recognize our friend and colleague, Jim Boyce. [Click here](#) for applications, donations to Silent Auction and general donations.

[Jimmy Bell](#), 2015 JBMS Chair

[Our Website](#)

Like us on [Facebook](#) 

View our profile on [Linked in](#) 

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

[Sign up for membership
today!](#)

If you have any articles for our next Newsletter please submit your articles to ninapaquette@gmail.com

APA Board of Directors

Meet your **2015 Board of Directors**. Members may see all Board minutes [here](#).

[Carroll Pruitt](#) - President
[Peter Grojean](#) - President -

training to utilize in their professional careers.

Sincerely, Your APA Board of Directors

Proofers Wanted!

The Communications Committee is seeking proof readers for the APA newsletter and other APA communications. If you are knowledgeable, talented, and interested in grammar, spelling, sentence structure, etc., please contact [Nina Paquette](#) or Communications Chair, [Mark Morley](#). Thank you for your consideration.

By [Teresa Darr](#), Communications Committee Member

Jim Boyce Scholarship* Fund Campaign

Update on the FUND CAMPAIGN for our Jim Boyce Memorial Scholarship! Please consider making a cash donation to support this APA scholarship. Any dollar amount is welcomed. Our overall campaign goal for this year is \$2,500. We would like to continue building the fund, so that we may award more or larger amounts in the future to deserving students. Remember, this scholarship, and our memorial to Jim Boyce, is only possible because of you, the membership.

Thanks to a generous \$1,000 kick-off donation from one of our members, the JBMS Fund Campaign is off to a great start! See our APA website [home page](#) for progress and [click here](#) to join in the donation program. This fund campaign is not replacing the annual Silent Auction. You may also make a pledge to donate an item for the Silent Auction for January 2016 [here](#).

The JBMS Committee would like to thank the APA membership for your continued generosity. The Jim Boyce Memorial Scholarship is set up as a 501(c)(3) charitable organization and all cash donations to the Jim Boyce Memorial Scholarship are tax deductible as charitable gifts.

**Donate to YOUR
APA Scholarship Fund**
Please consider a donation
to the Jim Boyce Memorial
Scholarship. The goal for
2015 is \$2,500!

Goal reached!



Elect

D. Clark Teel - Secretary

Jack McClellan - Treasurer

Robin Roberts - Board

Member

Sharon Massey - Board

Member

Leslie Marrero - Board

Member

Chris Schexnayder - Past

President, Ex-Officio

Jimmy Bell, Chair JBMS Committee

APA is now a Preferred Provider for ICC - as well as AIA and TDLR!



Vision Statement

Further develop a national association of professionals with knowledge and expertise in pursuit of compliance with accessibility codes and standards related to the built environment.

APA Mission

- Support membership needs and organizational growth at a national level.
- Enhance professional development including specialized and advanced certifications.
- Actively promote the services provided by our members.
- Hold our members to a high standard of professionalism and ethics.
- Facilitate consistency in the application of accessibility codes, rules and standards.
- Present a unified voice in our industry.
- Actively participate in the development, interpretation and

Your APA 2016 Member Logo will be available for your use on business materials on January 1, 2016 or when you renew in 2016.

News From the Governor's Office

October was Disability History Month but if you missed the daily 2015 Disability History Facts you can go to GCPD Disability History website (about halfway down the page, with the title NDEAM Disability History Facts) and look at all the 2011 through 2015 Disability History Facts. There is some fascinating info there. If you would prefer, I can send either the Word or PDF document, via email or postal mail, with all the facts. Feel free to share, and let us know if you come across other interesting tidbits that we can share next year. Many thanks for all you do for your community.

Nominations open for the **2016 Barbara Jordan Media Awards** and are due January 15. You can find Submission Guidelines and Entry Forms on our website <http://gov.texas.gov/disabilities>. Nominate a journalist, author or student, or contact that person to recommend a self-nomination.

We are still accepting applications for the Executive Director position here at GCPD. If you are interested and qualified, or if you know someone who might be, please send in an application as soon as possible.

Jo Virgil, Community Outreach and Information Coordinator
Texas Governor's Committee on People with Disabilities
jo.virgil@gov.texas.gov

adoption of accessibility codes, standards and regulations.

- Promote the value of certified accessibility specialists and consultants.

[CLICK HERE FOR PAST ANNUAL REPORTS](#)

* The APA Newsletter is provided to share general accessibility information and other resources that may be of interest to our members and constituents. While the APA Newsletter is published by the Accessibility Professionals Association, it is not intended to draw legal conclusions nor does it substitute for the advice of an attorney. The APA Newsletter does not speak for and does not represent the U.S. Department of Justice interpretation of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) nor the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulations (TDLR) interpretation of the 2012 Texas Accessibility Standards (TAS).